

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-10 SAM-01 SAJ-01 /076 W

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R 100813Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1134

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

KYMEMBASSY GABORONE 710

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MI, ZA

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT BANDA RECEIVES WARM WELCOME IN ZAMBIA

REF: BLANTYRE 4AND 21

1. PRESIDENT BANDA WAS GIVEN EXTRAORDINARILY WARM WELCOME BY UPWARDS TO SIX THOUSAND ZAMBIANS AND EXPATRIATE MALAWIANS AT LUSAKA AIRPORT WHERE HIS PLANE ARRIVED SHORTLY BEFORE NOON. ON HAND TO GREET HIM WERE PRESIDENT AND MRS. KAUNDA, UNIP SEC GEN GRAY ZULU, PRIMIN CHONA, AND OTHER CABINET AND PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS. PLACARDS AND CHANTS EXPRESSING SLOGAN "ONE ZAMBIA, ONE MALAWI" WERE PREVALENT. ONE PLACARD THAT PARTICULARLY PLEASE BANDA WELCOMED HIM AS "DESTROYER OF THE FEDERATION OF RHODESIA AND NYASALAND". CLARLY ELATED, BANDA SHOOK HANDS WITH MANY OF THOSE IN CROWD AND AT ONE POINT

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JOINED TRADITIONAL DANCERS IN TRIBAL DANCE AND SINGING OF

CHEWA SONG, MUCH TO DELIGHT OF ONLOOKERS.

2. IN SPEECH GIVEN AT LORD MAYOR'S RECEPTION IN LUSAKA'S NAKATINDI HALL JAN. 8, PRESIDENT BANDA STRESSED ESSENTIAL UNITY OF ZAMBIAN AND MALAWI PEOPLES. BORDERS DIVIDING MALAWI FROM ITS NEIGHBORS WERE ARTIFICIAL CREATIONS BY FORMER BRITISH AND PORTUGUESE COLONIAL MASTERS, NOT NATURAL BOUNDARIES. BANDA JOKINGLY REMARKED THAT MALAWI WAS SMALLER THAN ZAMBIA BECAUSE FORMER HAD BEEN CONTROLLED BY AFRICAN LAKES CORPORATION WHILE ZAMBIA HAD BEEN CREATED BY GIANT BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA COMPANY, WHICH INEVITABLY GOT LION'S SHARE WHEN TWO TERRITORIES WERE DIVIDED. BANDA IMPLIED THAT WHILE HIS VISIT WAS PROTOCOLARY ONE TO RETURN VISIT OF PRESIDENT KAUNDA TO MALAWI LAST YEAR, HE HAD ALSO COME TO DISCUSS "OTHER MATTERS" WHICH HE PREFERRED NOT TO DISCLOSE AT THAT POINT. (RUMOR IN DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES IS THAT BANDA WANTS TO TALK RAILROAD LINKS WITH ZAMBIA.)

3. ZAMBIANS HAVE PULLED OUT ALMOST ALL STOPS IN THEIR EFFORTS GIVE BANDA CORDIAL RECEPTION. PRESS HAS SPOKEN OF VISIT AS "LONG OVERDUE" AND HAS PLAYED UP ENTHUSIASTIC AIRPORT RECEPTION ACCORDED BANDA.

4. COMMENT: ZAMBIANS SEE IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH MALAWI, FOLLOWING ON PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S ICE-BREAKING VISIT THERE LAST YEAR, AS COMPLEMENTARY TO THEIR EFFORTS TO DEVELOP CLOSER POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL INTERACTION AMONG SOUTHERN AFRICAN STATES TO CAPITALIZE ON WINDS OF CHANGE BLOWING ACROSS REGION IN WAKE OF LAST APRIL'S COUP IN PORTUGAL. NOW THAT KAUNDA HAS BEEN HIMSELF IN CONTACT WITH VORSTER REGARDING RHODESIAN QUESTION, ZAMBIANS ARE LESS INCLINED THAN YEAR AGO TO BE CRITICAL OF CONTINUING MALAWI CONTACTS WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA AS SELL OUT OF AFRICAN LIBERATION CAUSE. MOREOVER, CLOSURE OF RHODESIAN - ZAMBIAN BORDER IN EARLY 1973 AND GROWING PROBLEMS OF PORT CONGESTION IN ANGOLA AND DAR HAVE LED ZAMBIANS TO TAKE GREATER INTEREST IN TRANSPORT ROUTES THROUGH MALAWI TO LESS CONGESTED PORTS OF NACALA AND BEIRA IN MOZAMBIQUE. USE OF THESE ROUTES WOULD OF COURSE DEPEND UPON MAINTAINING GOOD RELATIONS WITH BANDA.

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5. AT SAME TIME ZAMBIANS REMAIN SUSPICIOUS OF BANDA AND ESPECIALLY OF HIS CONTINUED EMPHASIS ON THE ARTIFICIALITY OF AFRICAN BOUNDARIES ESTABLISHED BY COLONIAL POWERS. BANDA'S REFERENCES TO THIS POINT DREW POLITE BUT DECIDEDLY TEPID APPLAUSE FROM ZAMBIANS PRESENT AND WE UNDERSTAND ZAMBIANS HAVE ACQUIESCED ONLY WITH RELUCTANCE TO BANDA'S DESIRE TO VISIT CHIPATA ON ZAMBIAN - MALAWI BORDER IN LIGHT OF THE LIFE PRESIDENT'S IRREDENTIST INTEREST IN THIS DISTRICT.

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